

Application Serial No.: 09/765,881
Art Unit: 3713

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method using discrete logic circuits on a microprocessor for collecting survey data stored in memory, comprising the steps of:
 - defining a question stored in flash memory for presentation in a survey; defining a plurality of potential answers, each one of said plurality of potential answers stored in flash memory corresponding to said question;
 - assigning a question code to said question;
 - assigning a plurality of choice codes, one of each said choice code assigned uniquely to each one of said plurality of potential answers;
 - creating question choice records using logic gates with logic functions for associating question code with each choice code;
 - presenting said question to a survey participant using an application specific integrated circuit; and
 - presenting said set of potential answers to said survey participant using the application specific integrated circuit in accordance with said question choice records, wherein an answer record is generated and forwarded to a database each time said survey participant completes a selection of an answer, said answer record reflecting the answer selected from said set of potential answers by said survey participant.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the ~~steps~~ step of:
 - creating ~~an~~ said answer record to associate said choice code of a selected answer with said question code.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of assigning a choice type to said choice code to define the format of the answer solicited by said question.
4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein said format comprises a multiple-choice format to capture user entered numeric or text data in support of an "other" choice.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of specifying a follow-up question for a predetermined said potential answer.

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6. (Original) The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of presenting said follow-up question to survey participant.

7. (Withdrawn) A system for collecting survey data comprising:
a display device for presenting a question to a survey participant; and
a controller for presenting a plurality of potential answers to said question to said survey participant in accordance with a question choice record.

8. (Withdrawn) A system according to claim 7, wherein said question is associated with a unique question ID and a question code.

9. (Withdrawn) A system according to claim 7, wherein each of said plurality of potential answers are associated with a unique choice ID and a choice code.

10. (Withdrawn) A system according to claim 7, wherein said question choice record associates said unique question ID with said unique answer ID.

11. (Withdrawn) A system according to claim 7, wherein said display device and said controller constitute a client-side terminal.

12. (Withdrawn) A system according to claim 11, wherein said client-side terminal comprises a personal digital assistant (PDA).

13. (Withdrawn) A system according to claim 14, wherein said question choice record is received from a database collection server.

14. (Withdrawn) A system according to claim 7, wherein said controller causes an answer record to be generated where said survey participant responds to said question via selected one of said plurality of choices.

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15. (Withdrawn) A system for collecting survey data comprising:
a database server comprising a database for storing survey data;
an interface for receiving an answer record from a client-side terminal; and
a controller for updating said database in accordance with said answer record.

16. (Withdrawn) A system for collecting survey data according to claim 15, wherein
said interface comprises a network interface for connecting to a network.

17. (Withdrawn) A system for collecting survey data according to claim 15, wherein
said network interface comprises a wireless network interface.

18. (Currently Amended) A system for collecting survey data comprising:
an application specific integrated circuit having eraseable programmable read-only
storage memory for storing data and electronic format instructions; and
a logic circuit with discrete logic gates configured to implement logic functions, the
logic circuit communicating with the storage memory for defining a question for presentation
in a survey, defining a set of potential answers to said question, said set comprising a plurality
of relevant potential answers to said question, assigning a question code to said question,
assigning a choice code to each of said plurality of potential answers, creating question choice
records for associating question code with each choice code, presenting said question to a
survey participant in accordance with said question choice records, wherein an answer record
is generated and forwarded to a database each time said survey participant completes a
selection of an answer, said answer record reflecting the answer selected from said set of
potential answers by said survey participant.

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19. (Currently Amended) A system for collecting survey data comprising:
an application specific integrated circuit with erasable programmable read-only storage means for storing data and electronic format instructions;
discrete logic circuit means for defining a question for presentation in a survey;
discrete logic circuit means for defining a set of potential answers to said question, said set comprising a plurality of relevant potential answers to said question;
discrete logic circuit means for assigning a question code to said question;
discrete logic circuit means for assigning a choice code to each of said plurality of potential answers;
discrete logic circuit means for creating question choice records for associating question code with each choice code;
discrete logic circuit means for presenting said question to a survey participant; and
discrete logic circuit means for presenting said set of potential answers to said survey participant in accordance with said question choice records, wherein an answer record is generated and forwarded to a database each time said survey participant completes a selection of an answer, the answer record reflecting the answer selected from said set of potential answers by said survey participant.